

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

*(upon reaching the age of 18)*

## ✓ RIGHTS

- I have the right to know what my disability is and how it affects my ability to learn and live independently.
- I have the right to be provided information regarding assessment, services and the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- I have the right to receive invitations to attend and participate in my IEP meeting.
- I have the right to make my own decisions about my special education program.
- I have the right to have individuals who understand my disability serve on my IEP team.
- I have the right to accept or refuse services.
- I have the right to give permission for testing or changing my program.
- I have the right to review my educational records.
- I have the right to disagree with my IEP and to receive help in writing a complaint, requesting mediation or a due process hearing.

## ✓ RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is my responsibility to learn about my disability and advocate for my needs.
- It is my responsibility to ask questions until I understand.
- It is my responsibility to attend all of my IEP meetings, and actively participate in the transition planning that will help prepare me for life after high school.
- It is my responsibility to invite people to my IEP meeting who know me and understand my disability.
- It is my responsibility to understand that developing an IEP is a collaborative process that involves a variety of team members, and that I need to be a cooperative member of that team.
- It is my responsibility to understand that refusing services may affect my educational program.
- It is my responsibility to provide information about my preferences, interests and strengths to my teachers and adult agency providers, so they can help find appropriate programs and services.
- It is my responsibility to follow through with any activities I have agreed to do as part of my IEP.



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*Adapted from the Minnesota Department of Children,  
Families and Learning, Spain, J., 1998.*